

AN
ARGUMENT
AG¹AINST
WAR:

In Opposition to some late PAMPHLETS,
PARTICULARLY;

The First and Second PART
OF THE
DUKE of ANJOU's
Succession Consider'd:

Wherein is plainly prov'd that it is directly contrary
to the Interest of *England* and *Holland* to side with
the Emperor against *France* and *Spain*, from the
present posture of Affairs.

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The Preface.

the People of England have repos'd in 'em, and though we owe much to the Preservation of our Neighbours, to make suitable Reflections on what they owe us who have made 'em our Representatives.

An English Parliament without doubt will Consult England's Good, and since at this time of day our Forces are Disbanded, and we are in no Condition of making Head against the Power of France by Land: I have no thoughts that they will enter into a War till they are better provided against the Hazards of it, or Attack a Monarch that has such Armies in the Field, and who makes it his request that we would continue in Peace with him.

The Northern Crowns during the late War, have shewn us an Example which we may follow, and tho' the Emperour and the States of Holland may think fit to measure Weapons with two Kings that are likely to be too hard for 'em, we may remain Neuters as They did, and yet assist our Allies by furnishing them with Troops for their Money, as they did us. But this is the Business of the Venerable Assembly now sitting at Westminster, and whatever we little Politicians may think of the Matter, they are to make choice of Expedients and determine what is to be done.

IRENE.

OR AN

Argument

AGAINST

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THE Press has been so clogg'd with matters of Advice since the King of *Spain's* Death, and the Duke of Anjou's Succession considered, made such a Noise by reason of the great Name that was made use of in the publication of it, that it will not be improper to set things in a true Light, in order to recover the Minds of Men to a due sense of Affairs, and take 'em off from the prejudice they may have been possess'd with, in Relation to what has been the subject of the following Discourse.

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A War

A War according to the voice of *Reason* and *Nature*, ought to be founded upon just grounds, as the violation of Publick Treaties, an encroachment upon a People's Liberties, a denial of Restitution for Injuries receiv'd, and a breach of that common Friendship which ought to be cultivated and improv'd between one State and another, and tho' there ought to be a regard had to *Politicks* in entering upon it, we have little reason to expect success from it unless we are perswaded to it by a true Principle of *Justice*, and have recourse to Arms, chiefly on the account of not being able to have our Grievances redress'd by less violent Measures. Now if Matters stand thus, it will be much to the purpose to make Enquiry what the *French King* has done towards the infringement of any Publick Treaty, and what we are able to do at this Present Juncture in vindication of our selves, provided he has injur'd us.

First, The King of *France* is charg'd with a Breach of the *Pyrenean Treaty*; and 2dly, That of the *Partition*. The 23d Article of the *Pyrenean Treaty* is that which the *Considerer*, or rather the Author of the Flying-Post builds upon, which is a sort of Ratification of the Marriage between the *French King*, and the *Infanta of Spain*, and has no other Relation to us than a publick Agreement between one Foreign Prince and another. It's true we were secur'd (as we thought) by that Article, from the farther growth of the Power of *France*, which even then was almost swol'n to a disproportion of Greatness; but as a Treaty of *Peace*, ought to have the same Foundation as an Engagement in *War*, so unless *Justice*,

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Since be the Basis on which it stands, the Breach of it for certain can never be unjust.

The Law of God, as well as the dictates of Nature, has provided for the nearest of Kin as to matters of Inheritance, and though the elder Offspring should actually renounce all manner of Claim, he has no Authority to do it for his Children's Children, who have, notwithstanding any *Renunciation* to the contrary, an inherent Right to take Possession of whatsoever they have a claim to from their Birth. And since the *Dauphin* and Duke of *Burgundy*, who are the two next Heirs to the Kingdoms of *France*; and *Navarr*, have agreed to the Settlement of the *Spanish* Dominions upon the Duke of *Anjou*, he has a Right without all manner of Dispute as immediate Heir to the *Infanta*, to Invest himself with the Regal Authority, and be enthron'd in the Kingdoms of *Castile*, *Arragon*, &c. without any manner of opposition, having both the Will of the deceas'd King, and the Customs of Birth-right to plead in his Favour.

But the Man of *Consideration* to anticipate the force of this Plea, says, the Laws of the *Spanish* Kingdom do not permit the Crown to be alienated, and are actually against its falling under the Dominion of a Stranger. In answer to which, we have this to urge, that the present King of *Spain* (the Duke of *Anjou*, is so far from being a Stranger to the House of *Austria*, that though he is of the Family of *Bourbon*, he may be properly call'd a Branch of it, since it's agreed by all hands that the Mother's side is the surest; and he derives a great part of his Blood from the Veins of her, that would have been (had not she died before her Brother) Heir's apparent

rent to those flourishing Kingdoms. But he insists upon the young King's being a *Stranger*, because he was born out of the *Spanish* Dominions, which is as fully destructive of the Arch-Duke's pretended Title, which he would find evasions to set up, since 'tis indisputably true, that to be born in the *Empire*, is to receive one's Being in a place of greater distance from *Spain*, than to draw one's first Breath in *France*, which is contiguous to it.

Therefore if the Duke of *Anjou* be as much a Grand-Child of *Spain* as he is of *France*; if his Father and Brother have given up their Right to him, and he's call'd to inherit the Throne of his Ancestors by his Uncle's Will, and the Voice of the People; What should obstruct his possessing the Dominions he has the Grant of, or our Acknowledgments of him as King of the Kingdoms he is already possessed of? Had we design'd to have disputed his Title, we should have been provided with more standing Forces, and thwarted the effects of a neighbouring Kingdom's secret Counsels with open Violence, not insisted upon the Consent of the *Cortes*, or States of the Kingdom, after the whole Nation in general had given their Consent to it, or pretended to have stop'd his young Catholick Majesty's Journey into *Spain*, after he had actually reach'd the place of his Coronation, the City of *Madrid*.

But the Men of *England* are gifted with better Dispositions than to strike any Person before they give him warning to defend himself; and instead of having a Fleet ready to have made things go according to their Wishes, talk of a Fleet now to transport the Arch Duke of *Austria* to *Spain*, when the Duke of
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Anjou has got the start of him, and there are two stout Squadrons of *French* Men of War now riding in the *Spanish* Harbours to protect him.

The next thing that the generality of People complain against the *French* King for, is, the Breach of the Treaty of Partition; a *Triple Alliance*, which has made more Noise in the World, than that in the Reign of our *K. Charles* the Second, and has furnish'd it with more Discourse than any thing which has happen'd in this latter Age; unless it be the unexpected and sudden turn of Affairs, which has broke the Measures of it, by the Death of the late King of *Spain*.

But as no one can give a true Judgment of a Proceeding which has no *Precedent* to warrant the Justice of it, without searching into the Validity of that Authority which was concern'd in it; so I shall stand excusable, if I desire the Reader to make an Enquiry into the grounds of it, and examin the Title, the Powers concern'd in it had to make themselves *Executors* to the late King of *Spain*, and Parcel out the Dominions of the Deceased, before he too hastily sounds the Alarm, and cry's to *your Tents ye Men of Israel*.

The Design of it, as may be seen in the *Preamble*, was the Preservation of the publick Peace, and the Continuance of the Ballance of *Europe* in such a due Poize, that neither the Imperial Family should have it in their Power to distress the other *European* States; nor that of *France* in theirs, to Usurp the Universal Monarchy, which had been so long endeavour'd after; and seem's at first sight to prevent all manner of Objections that could be made against it, by the Generosity

nerosity that was shewn in the *French* King's resigning the Claim the *Dauphin* had to the whole Dominions of *Spain*, for not a Tenth part, and the goodness of *England* and *Holland* in consulting the Benefit of their Ally the Emperour, for no other Ends than the Welfare of Christendom, whose defence they had so lately taken Arms for. But if it be prov'd that the *Means* which were then made use of could never have answer'd the *Ends*, that were propos'd from them; and that the Measures which were then taken in order to *preserve* the *Peace*, would have occasion'd the *Breach* of it, we shall have very little reason to conclude we are injur'd, because it has not taken effect, or that we are in Danger of being swallow'd up by the Power of *France*, when she has refus'd Her acceptance of those Dominions, which would have enabl'd Her to have done what Her *Ambition* had prompted her to.

The Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*, with the several rich Provinces and Lordships added by this Treaty to those of *France* and *Navarr*, created such a Jealousy amongst the Princes of *Italy*, that there is no room to question, but that they would have been unanimous, and join'd with the Emperour in order to keep their Common Enemy from having it in his Power to invade their Liberty's. And tho' so great a Monarch that had the *English* and *Dutch* for his Ally's, might in time over-run all *Europe*; yet the Expence the Two *last* Powers would have been at, without any other Advantage to themselves, than a Sight of the growing Greatness of the *First*, would have much over-ballanc'd the Honour they could receive from the Conquests they should have made.

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Besides, tho' it be part of the Royal Prerogative of a King of *England* to make private Treaty's, enter into Alliances, and concert such Measures as His Majesty shall think fitting for the Good of his Subjects; yet as the Sinews of War are in the Hands of his Parliament, and they are the Disposers of the Publick Treasure, they might possibly have withheld their hands from giving any thing towards the Support of a Treaty which they had not Advis'd His Majesty to; after they had been so liberal in giving so many Millions to maintain a Confederacy, which they had unanimously given their Votes for. And as this might have occasion'd Reflections on the Best Prince living, and have given Birth to Suspicions of that Judgment which had known no such thing as Error before; so it might cast an Odium on the whole Nation in General for deserting our Allies, unless His Majesty would have paid the Ships and Troops He was to furnish for his Quota, out of His own Revenues, which could not be expected.

But what should have been Chiefly consulted before the Powers concern'd were enter'd into this Treaty, was the Temper of the *Spanish* Nation, the Laws of the Kingdoms of *Castile* and *Arragon*, which are utterly against the dismembring the Monarchy, and the little appearance of Justice there was in the Division of those Kingdoms and States which had been so long united, and continu'd under one Head ever since the Marriage of King *Ferdinand* of *Arragon* with *Isabella* of *Castile*. Even private Gentlemen have a Right to dispose of their Estates, provided they are not entail'd, to whomsoever they shall think fitting; and tho' they are Possessors of never so ma-

ny Lordships or Mannors, they may bequeath 'em to a Person, if they please, who is already Possess'd of more than enough; and certainly the High Dignity of Kings allow's 'em a Prerogative, which the meanest of Subjects is permitted to have.

However, it may be objected, that where the Loss of our Religion, our Liberty's, and all that is dear to us, is justly suspected to be design'd, there they may break thro' the Common Roads of Justice, and do things that are not otherwise allowable, by way of prevention. In answer to which, it may be material to observe, that the *French* by acceptance of the King of *Spain's Will* have put it out of their Power to enslave us, or the other Protestant States. For, tho' the *Spaniards* Cajole him for a Time, and compliment Him out of his Money to support their present Exigency's; yet the Generality of the *Grande*s are so averse to a *French* Government; which is altogether Arbitrary, that the only way for a Grandson of *France* to be oblig'd to take his leave of *Spain*; will be to follow the Advice of *Lewis* the 14th, and be persuaded into a War, when the Poverty of his Kingdoms is such, as hardly permits 'em even to reap the very Benefits of Peace.

It's true, the *French* King has lately given the States of *Holland* some grounds for suspecting his Intentions, by marching fifty Battalions into the *Spanish* Towns, where the *Dutch* Forces were in Garrison; but if we reflect on the repeated Instances he has made to 'em to acknowledge his Grand-Son, and and the Danger there was for a People to be Possessors of the strongest Towns in *Flanders*, who had no Stomach to down with the Duke of *Anjou's* Title

tle, such an Action carry's with it the appearance of a down-right Necessity; and since both *French* and *Spaniards* in the several Towns, are order'd upon severe Punishments, to live in a good Correspondence with the *Dutch*, it look's more like a Precaution for the defence of his Grandson's Territories, than an Attempt for offending those of others.

Since therefore, what His *Gallick* Majesty has done, cannot appear otherwise, (till he breaks into open Hostilities) than Measures taken for the Security of His own and his Grandson's Kingdoms; since the Treaty of Partition, if adher'd to by *France*, would have drawn His Imperial Majesty and *Spain*, our old Ally's, into a Confederacy against us, and the Princes of *Italy*, with the greatest part of those in the Empire, would have declar'd in favour of 'em, Since a neighbouring Prince might have laid hold of that our Act and Deed, as a Precedent to dis-unite the Kingdoms of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, and weaken 'em by dis-membring one Part from another, at a juncture when there are more Pretenders to the Succession of 'em after Her Royal Highness the Princess, than ever was for the Crown of *Spain*; it's altogether necessary that the Result of our Consultations, should be for Ways and Means to perpetuate the Peace, and make it lasting as it was General, before the Pretensions of the King of *Denmark*, and the perfidious Attempts of the *Poles* and *Muscovites*.

But if our Representatives, whose Business it is to provide for the Publick Safety, and who can best judge of the *French* King's Intention from the Dissimulation he has often been guilty of, should think nothing but a War capable of bringing him to Rea-

son; with all deference to their unerring Resolutions it's humbly propos'd, that as the *Dutch* have had a sufficient *Premium* from us for forwarding the late Revolution, that they pay us the same Acknowledgments for the Assistance which is to be given 'em. And since the Seat of the War must unavoidably be in *Holland*, as well as *Italy*, and on the *Upper Rhine*, that they defray the Charges of the Troops that are sent to 'em. And tho' the Emperour may make very specious Offers to us, promise us Security for Moneys lent on His Hereditary Countries, and perpetual Edicts for the Exercise of the *Protestant* Religion in the *Elector Palatine's* and His own Dominions, that they consider Him a greater Bigot to the *Romish* Superstition than the Neighbouring Prince we seem so much afraid of, and who has treasur'd up Resentments (notwithstanding the present Face of Affairs makes him conceal 'em) for our entring into an Alliance, which has been so detrimental to the Interest of the *Austrian* Family, and has made Him turn Petitioner for Assistance, which it is not our Interest to grant him, unless upon better Security.

It may be objected that our Denial of His Imperial Majesty's Request, may bring him into an Alliance with *France*, and make him close up the Breaches which have for some time been between those Two Illustrious Houses, by consenting to the Marriage of one of the Arch-Duchesses with the King of *Spain*, and by those Means enter into a Confederacy with other *Roman* Catholick Princes against an utter Extirpation of what they call Heresy; a Project which the Imperial Ambassador at the *Hague*, has affirm'd to have been already pro-

propos'd to His Master, and rejected by him.

What if we take it for granted, and the War of *Ambition*, that we fancy now threaten's us, should turn into one of *Religion*? Since it's as evident as Truth it self, we should have less to fear from it, who being encompass'd by the Sea, should have the four best Maritim Nations in the World, the *English*, *Swedes*, *Danes*, and *Dutch* to defend us; which we never can have, but on such an Occasion, it being the receiv'd Custom of *Sweden* and *Denmark* to side with different *Parties*. And nothing is more certain, than that such a War is likely to have a short continuance, and the less Success to be had in it from the Ambition of several Pretenders to the Supreme Command, as has been always observable in the many Expeditions which were undertaken in the *Holy War* against the *Saracens*, a Comparison not proper for us Christians, but agreeable to what they stile us.

But a War of this Nature will give us leave to provide against it; and the Terms of entring into such an Universal League, with the dilatory Proceedings of the *German* Princes, will put such a stop to the Activity of the *French*, that we need not question but our Armies will be in readiness to oppose 'em; our Fleets Mann'd, Equipp'd, and prepar'd to receive 'em; and we may Lord it o're that Ocean, which more than once has confess'd our Sovereignty, and acknowledg'd that Obedience, which hitherto has been due to the *British* Streamers. Whereas the *Spaniards* and the *French*, whom we seem so willing to fall out with, are already provided; the first in order to oppose the execution of the

the late Famous Treaty; and the last under a Pretence, at the time of His Armament, of seeing every Article that belong'd to it, punctually perform'd. Their Land-Forces are innumerable in respect of ours, and their Strength by Sea much Superior to us, for want of a timely Precaution. Our Treasure lies in their very Harbours, and we shall in all probability lose more in *beginning* a War so rashly, than would serve us to make an *end* of it; since the *Plate* Fleet now rides at Anchor in *Cadis-Road*, and the *Dutch* and *We* have above Twenty Millions of Effects in the *Spanish* Kingdom; which, in case of a Rupture with that Crown, will be seiz'd, and we not at all capable of making reprisals, for want of a suitable Opportunity.

Would we then preserve the Esteem the States of Christendom have deservedly had of our Wisdom and Courage; Would we continue the Character of a People considerate in Resolution, and who weigh the difficulty of an Enterprize before we undertake it; would we be Masters of the Precaution which is Natural to us, and make our Resentments give way to our Interest; we should, instead of having recourse to Arms when we are not in a posture of gaining any thing by the use of 'em, like *David* who feign'd himself Mad before King *Achish*, Conceal the Detestation we have of the *French* and *Spanish* Proceedings, till we had got our Effects out of their Hands.

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The means that seem most proper to be made use of in such a Critical Conjunction, are not distant from us; and if His Gallick Majesty cry's *Peace, peace, when there is no Peace*, we have it likewise in our Power to entertain him with the same Language, and obviate His Designs with the same Dissimulation. *Regium est dissimulare*, says an Antient Author, It's the Duty of a King sometimes for the good of his Subjects, to veil his real Designs with those that are not so; and like a Skilful Gladiator, to make a *Feint*, where he does not intend to *Strike*. And if His present Majesty, who always makes choice of the fittest Expedient for his People's Security, should vouchsafe to abate something of His usual Sincerity, and act in such a conceal'd manner as to provide against the Attacks of an *Enemy*, while he seem'd to be *Caressing a Friend*: Then, might *England* put her self in a Condition to carry a War into an *Enemy's Country*, instead of letting Him bring it home to Us; then, would a Neighbouring Nation lie under the same Fears of the Increase of our Greatness, as we do of theirs; and then, we might insure to our selves the Blessings of a lasting *Peace*, since it would be known to them that are disturbers of it, that we were in a State of continuing a lasting War.

But, *the King's Heart is in the Hand of the Lord, as the Rivers of Water he turneth it wheresoever he pleaseth*; and God alone can direct His Vicegerent, and give his Counsellors Wisdom. I shall leave therefore what is to be done in this present Exigency, to the Debates of the Parliament now sitting, and change the Thoughts of an unprofitable War

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into Reflections upon the Benefits of *Peace*, as I, with all deference imaginable to the wise Consultations of my Superiors, humbly propose Means to keep the *French* King within the Limits allotted Him by several Publick Treaties, without having recourse to Violence, in order to force him to a Compliance.

It's visible *France* has done little or nothing yet, by way of Contravention to the Peace of *Riiswick*; and the Accession of the Duke of *Anjou* to the *Spanish* Crown, is so far from uniting the Two Kingdoms, that it's very probable it may occasion a Breach between em, on account of the Preferment of Foreigners, which generally is the Consequence of such *Revolutions*, and is likelier to fall out at this Juncture, when a *French* Governour, a foreign Ambassador, &c. are admitted into His most secret Councils, and have not only the Government of the Kingdom, but even that of the King Himself. The *Spanish* Pride is too well known, to see Strangers advanc'd before 'em, and put up such an Affront to their Wisdom, which they have the Vanity to think not only capable of directing their own Kingdoms, but of prescribing Measures to be taken by the whole World. And I dare affirm that Person never to have been at *Madrid*, who is not furnish'd with this Observation, that the meanest piece of *Gravity* in All that City and Suburbs, fancies himself another *Mat-chiavel*, and is Buoy'd up with the Conceit, that a *Spanish* Subject is greater than a *French* King.

However, since it's possible it may happen otherwise, and the *Spaniards* by giving their Acceptance of a *French* Prince for their King, may out of Compliment to him admit of *French* Politicks for their Guides.

Guides; and since the lasting Enmity between those two Nations, which before were as different in their Principles, as *Heat* and *Cold*, seem's wholly to be dissipated; and the Vows of an Eternal Friendship, have taken its place; it's the Business of the other States of *Europe*, tho' they are not actually united under One Head, to prevent the possibility of such a Conjunction, and apply themselves without any delay to such Consultations, as may preserve the Violation of a *Peace*, which the whole Christian World is so much concern'd in, and obstruct the Ambition of a Prince, who by committing a Rape on One People's Liberty, may be enabled to do the same Violence to those of others.

Suppose then the Emperour were prevail'd with, to hold himself contented with the Marriage of the Arch-Duchess with His Catholick Majesty, which (if he has no design to grasp at the Liberties of *Europe* Himself) he must necessarily consent to: Since the Preferment of a *Daughter* to the Crown of *Spain*, would have as great Weight with an impartial and truly affectionate Father, as the Promotion of a Son. Let us take it for granted likewise, that the Arch-Duke of *Austria* for want of Issue by His Catholick Majesty from his Sister, was approv'd of, with the Heirs of His Body, by the States of the Kingdom for True and Lawful Successors, and in the mean time had a Royal Allowance, as a Son of *Spain*. In order to this we must hold it necessary, that all Christian States (*France* and *Spain* not excepted) be invited into One common Alliance; and that the Two Nations before-mention'd have it Registred and Enroll'd among the
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publick Acts of those Kingdoms. That during the Reign of the Duke of *Anjou*, no *Frenchmen* be permitted to preside in the publick Posts of His Kingdoms; that none but Natives Garrison his Forts and Towns; and that his Ports and Harbors be as impartially free to all Strangers, as in the Reign of his Predecessors. But since the Peace of *Europe* can never be lasting without other Obligations to make it so, than the Assurances of Justice and Equity, and the bare Promises and Protestations of the Party's concern'd in it; and it's a difficult Matter to make a *Vultus mutantem Protea*, to keep to any Verbal Engagements; it will very much conduce to the continuance of the *Peace*, if the said States beforementioned, were made Guarantees of the said Treaty, and oblig'd themselves by the strictest Tyes imaginable to unite their whole Force against either or Both the Two Powers, whose Union they stood in fear of, that should do any thing contrary to the said Treaty.

Tho' this may look like an imaginary sort of *Cure* for Wounds, that are ready to *Gush* out again with Blood, and seem incapable of perfecting the *Peace* of *Europe*, which was only patch'd up for a Time by the last General Cessation of Arms; because a Son of *France* would never have been declar'd King of *Spain* while those Two Nations were in Arms against each other, yet it's a much more Adviseable project than is to be found in the *Succession* of *Spain* Discuss'd, which is for *Dismembring* the Monarchy, and *Lopping* off *Milan*, *Flanders*, *Ostend*, &c. from the *Body* of it. The Emperour perhaps would Hesitate in giving His Assent to it, in hopes of entring into another

other sort of a Confederacy; but it's in the power of the *English* and *Dutch*, whom he solicites for Assistance, to make him take other Resolutions. And for their parts, the Princes of *Italy*, without doubt, would jump at the Proposal, since it would prevent the Visit of Two dangerous Guests, the *Imperialists* and *French*, whose Entertainment otherwise must needs be very Chargeable to 'em and *England*, and the Two Northern Crowns, *Germany* and *Holland*, would rest abundantly satisfy'd with the removal of those Fears they were possess'd with, and enjoy those Blessings they could have no prospect of, if alarm'd out of the quiet Recesses of an inestimable Peace.

But it may be urg'd that there is little, or no Appearance of *Lewis* the 14th's Agreement to any thing of this Nature: And it's thought he knows the value of *Spain*, *Flanders*, and the *West Indies* too well, to take off the Entail of 'em from his own Family. In Answer to which, we acknowledge that a Disciple of *Mazarine*, who has imbib'd that desire of Glory, and has such a Thirst after Greatness, as he has been taught to have, is very likely to stand by his high Pretensions, and hold fast a Claim his Family has already made just and equitable by Possession, But since he has declar'd in his *Memorial* to the *Dutch*, that he had no other Ends in His Acceptance of the King of *Spain's* Will, than a Desire of Peace and He preferr'd the Publick Tranquility to the Advantages of His own Crown; we have some grounds to conclude, that he will not make the Blessing the Object of His Aversion, which was that of His Affection. And should the Confederacy beforementioned think fit to request Him to regulate Affairs in

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the Method that was just now hinted at; Is it to be suppos'd that the most Christian King or his Nephew would deny their Compliance with it, when so numerous an Assembly of *Princes* and *States*, who would otherwise declare against 'em, must of Necessity force it from them?

Such an Alliance as this might do something, if back'd with an Embassy, sent out according to Sir *Henry Wotton's* Definition *ad mentiendum Republicæ Causâ*, to amuse those Two Powers with hopes of Acknowledgments of the New King of *Spain's* Title, till our Fleets are got ready, and every thing provided to seize upon the Wealth of the *Havana*, and bring off the Treasures of *Mexico* and *Peru*, in order to feed a War, which requires more Nutriment than we are at present able to give, and in all probability would have occasion for more Supplies than our Circumstances will allow of.

But our *Fear* has gotten the better of our *Understanding*, and we are for striking the *First* Blow by way of prevention, though we are likely without a timely Provision to receive the *Last*, which is most Dishonourable. *To the Stake*, and *Popery* is the Burthen of the Song, and *Religion* (says the *Calvinist* who glories in a false one) *is like to be Extirpated by the Children of Belial*, when the *Spaniards* at present have no thoughts of giving 'em another *Eighty Eight* Visit, and the *French* are so sensible of the Consequence of an Invasion, that I am perswaded they are wiser than to attempt it. Not, but the violent Presumptions of our Allies the *Dutch*, are grounded upon proper Reasons, and there are sufficient Motives to Induce 'em to believe that it is High Time to secure their Frontiers and stand on their Guard, when the not ed

ed saying of *Delenda est Carthago*, is reviv'd among some sort of People ; but it is reasonable they should wait the Event, since 'tis possible the Loss of their Effects beyond Sea, and the Seizure of those Rich Merchandizes, which it is their Interest to preserve, may be the Result of their Impatience, and disable 'em from prosecuting a War with that Vigour which the Necessity of Affairs may require.

'Tis undoubtedly their Interest to make an Estimate of the *French* and *Spanish* Strength, and then take a View of their Own ; to know the Number of their Ships and Troops, and the forwardness they are in for Action, and to raise proper Funds to secure Alliances ; since they have not ingratiated themselves so much by their Generosity, as to make 'em Assur'd of Assistance without paying for it, before they take the the Field ; or attempt to grapple with a Prince, who has more than Once led his Conquering Armies into the Heart of their Country ; and, even when *Spain* was against him, has had the Keys of their Best and Strongest Towns laid at his Feet. As this Precaution seems necessary to the *Hollanders*, so it will not be unadvisable for us to make use of it, which brings me to the second thing propos'd, That is, to make an Enquiry into what we are able do at this present Juncture, in Vindication of our selves, provided the French King has injur'd us.

When the *English* Declar'd War against *France* at the time of the Late *Happy* Revolution, we had an Excellent Army just then Disbanded, to Collect Troops out of, a great Plenty of Money circulating freely in the Nation ; and no Millions to pay to make Satisfaction for Old Debts. But at this time of Day, we have but Twenty three thousand Men to Garrison and Defend

fend the three Kingdoms ; and our late *Engliſh* Eſtabliſh-
 ment of Forces which was upwards of 87000 Men, is re-
 duc'd to leſs than the tenth Part of that Number ; and that
 we are ſcarce in a Capacity to defend our ſelves, much
 leſs to be the Aggreſſors. In Answer to this, ſome Peo-
 ple, who are for a War may reply, we may ſoon re-
 cruit our ſelves with the like Number ; and that our
 Troops have not been broken ſo long as to forget the
 Uſe of their Arms ; or that they may not be reasſem-
 bled upon the ſame Foot as they were before : But
 ſuch an Objection will be of little force, when we
 conſider the greateſt part of 'em have taken to ſome
 Employment or other ; and that they have ſo little
 Encouragement to Liſt themſelves again from the
 Treatment they at that time receiv'd from their Superior
 Officers, that its very probable they would undergo
 great Hardſhips before they would take Arms at this
 Juncture. Much more might be ſaid on this Head,
 as the Preſſures we are under on the Account of Natio-
 nal Debts, &c. But, leſt I ſhould tire the Reader's pa-
 tience, I think it adviſeable to conclude, that it will be
 much more for the Proſperity of this Kingdom, and
 eſpecially of His Majeſty, who will loſe the Reve-
 nues of the Principality of Orange on the Account
 of a New War, to continue in a good Correſpon-
 dence with *France* and *Spain* ; and incomparably more
 for the Nations Intereſt to ſearch into the Management
 of the Monies before giv'n, than to think of raiſing
 more The removal of Evil Counſellors, an Enquiry
 into the Management of the late *Peace*, and a ſtrict
 Examination of Captain *Kid's* Affair, will be of more
 importance to us, than interfering with other Folks
 Quarrels, and the way to make a Kingdom ſafe, if it
 ſhould happen to be involv'd in a War, is to call
 hoſe to an Account that are the Betrayers of it.

F I N I S.